

# Civic News

# Orinda

## Public Meetings

**City Council** Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

**Planning Commission** Tuesday, November 30, 7:00 pm  
(November 23 meeting has been cancelled)  
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
City of Orinda: [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)  
Chamber of Commerce: [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org)

### • Police Report •



was doing. "Hanging out," he replied. He also did not have a medical marijuana card, so he was cited for possession of less than an ounce.

**Frequent Flyer drunk in public, 11/02/10** Orinda's usual suspect was causing a disturbance on Moraga Way. She was found by officers lying on the ground with a half empty bottle of vodka. A cop asked her what she was doing and she started screaming his name – apparently they had met before. She was unable to stand on her own, plus had a .20 blood alcohol level, so she was transported to the Martinez Detention Facility.

**Burglary, 10/25/10** An unknown suspect pried open the locked rear door of an Ardilla Road home and stole an estimated \$3,800 worth of unspecified items. This reporter wonders what kind of unspecified items – jewelry, computer, autographed Cody Ross Giants jersey?

**Vandalism, 10/25/10** Sometime between 6:30 and 7:15 in the morning that rascally unknown suspect broke the drivers side window on a Saturn – the car, not the planet – parked on Muth Drive. Police speculate the damage was caused by a baseball bat. Fortunately nothing was taken from the vehicle but there was approximately \$250 in damage to the window.

**Drug Possession, 10/26/10** A nineteen-year-old male was smoking pot in his mom's BMW at the back parking lot of Glorietta School on Martha Road. An officer could smell the strong odor of marijuana and asked the young man what he



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## And the Winners Are?

By Andrea a. Firth

Orinda's City Council election may still be too close to call until the very last ballot is counted. As of press time the Contra Costa County Board of elections still had thousands of mail-in and provisional ballots across the county to add to the election counts. The number of ballots that remained outstanding in Orinda was not known.

According to City Clerk Michele Olsen, Orinda has historically had a significant percentage of residents voting by mail, as high as 68%, so the City is watching closely for updates from the County.

Based on the election night results, just under 10,000 votes were cast by Orinda residents

who were given the option to vote for three of the five candidates— Amy Worth, Dean Orr, Sue Severson, Scott Zeller, and Tom McCormick. In the 2006 election, when voters were also given the option to vote for three out of five City Council candidates, a total of 21,569 votes were cast.

With the potential that several thousand votes still need to be counted, at this point we can only make educated guess as to who will be sitting on the stage of the Library Auditorium when the new Council members are sworn in on December 7th.

Here's what we know now. It's a safe bet that Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer, who each have two years left in their terms, will

be at the table. For the three open Council seats, the current results have Amy Worth leading the group with 2,485 votes followed by Dean Orr (2,010 vote) and Sue Severson (1,949 votes). Scott Zeller, M.D., the newcomer to Orinda's civic scene, remains in the hunt trailing Severson by just 59 votes. Current Mayor Tom McCormick trails the pack with 1,633 votes.

The election to fill three seats on the Orinda Union School District Board (OUSD) of Trustees is also very tight and uncounted absentee ballots could impact the results of this race as well. A total of 9,037 votes have been counted so far. This compares to 17,128 votes cast in the 2006 OUSD

school board election that also filled three trustee posts.

Based on the election night results, Julie Rossiter (1,952 votes), Chris Severson (1,923 votes), and Tyson Krumholz (1,877 votes) have the top three spots. Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert trails Krumholz by just 120 votes, and Sarah Butler is currently in fifth place with 1,516 votes. Rounding out the Board will be current Trustees Pat Rudebusch and Matt Moran who each have two years left in their terms.

Note, this information is up-to-date as of Monday morning, November 8th. We'll keep you informed as the election results are updated. Go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com).

## FPPC Does Not Pursue Complaint Against McCormick

By Andrea A. Firth

The California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) recently determined that a complaint filed by Orinda resident Gregory Wheatland against Mayor Tom McCormick did not provide evidence of a conflict of interest violation.

Twelve days prior to the recent City Council election, Wheatland, a former Mayor and Council member, filed a complaint with the FPPC alleging McCormick, due to the proximity of his home to downtown,

had violated the Political Reform Act by serving as chairman of a city task force that developed recommendations for downtown development.

Two days prior to the complaint filing, McCormick, who owns a residence within 500 feet of the edge of the downtown area, had submitted a written request to the FPPC asking for advice regarding whether he could vote on matters that concern downtown zoning. A response from the Commission is

expected by late November.

McCormick participated in over 100 meetings as chair of the City's Planning Process Review Task Force (the PPRTF), which was disbanded after submitting a report of its recommendations early this year. The downtown segment of the PPRTF's report has not yet been adopted by the City Council, and review of the recommendations stalled with the Planning Commission due to strong public feedback regarding the build-

ing height increases and mixed housing proposed in the report. The next step in the PPRTF review process is yet to be determined.

Although the election results for Orinda's closely contested Council race have not been fully counted, McCormick's current fifth place finish leaves it unlikely that he will be a voting member if downtown development and zoning matters come before the Council in 2011.



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